



Milwaukee County

Supervisor Patricia Jursik, 8th District

Supervisor Jason Haas, 14th District

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STUDY FINDS PROPOSED TRANSIT CUTS WILL MAKE THOUSANDS MORE JOBS INACCESSIBLE

Supervisors call on State to restore funds

Milwaukee, WI – County Supervisors Patricia Jursik and Jason Haas issued the following statements in response to the UW-Milwaukee Center for Economic Development's publication of a [study on proposed 2012 Milwaukee County Transit Service reductions](#). The study found that at least 13,533 jobs will lose access to transit if proposed transit cuts are implemented.

"The cuts to our transit system are unacceptable in this high-unemployment arena," stated Supervisor Jursik. "Just this week, Supervisor Haas and I held community meetings and heard from dozens of transit users outraged by these potential cuts. Every year that routes are cut, it strangles the transit system even more. The additional 13,533 projected loss is on top of 40,000 already lost due to prior cuts. Employees can't get to work, and employers can't get the workers they need. These cuts hurt our ability to spur economic development throughout the region. When potential developers consider where to locate or expand, they always ask about transit. Restoring bus service is paramount and should be our number one priority in the 2012 budget. Legislators in Madison can help by restoring funding to the Milwaukee County Transit System. The money is there, and they need to do the right thing."

"The cuts that the State Legislature has forced upon the Milwaukee County Transit System will devastate thousands of people who rely on the bus to get to work, school, the clinic, or wherever they need to go," Supervisor Haas said. "The painful changes that we are being forced to make by this funding reduction will cut transit-reliant people off from the greater metropolitan area. Moreover, businesses have chosen to locate here because reliable transportation is available for their workers. These cuts will drive businesses away and hurt the workers and the economy. Despite the fact that state transportation money is still available for public transit, the state is not releasing it. In doing this, the state is throwing the economy under the bus."

The study can be found at http://www.uwm.edu/ced/publications/transitjobs_2011update.pdf.

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